

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments to the Specification, Abstract and Drawings

Applicant has amended the Specification, Abstract and Drawings to address the objections noted by the Office and/or respectfully submits that certain objections to the specification are merely stylistic in nature and that no further correction is required.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the structure of the claimed invention. Applicant has amended claims 1 – 20 to remove reference numbers, to correct grammatical errors, and has further amended claims 2 – 20 in view of the amendment of claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1 – 20 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite. In view of the fact that the instant application is the national stage application of an International Application filed in the Japanese language, the instant specification and claims was translated from original Japanese and consequently, contained many grammatical errors. In view thereof, Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct such grammatical errors and to clarify the structure of the claimed invention, which amendments also have served to obviate the rejections noted by the Office.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 20 stand rejected as allegedly obvious in view of Moroi (US 6,113,329) and Heighberger (US 4,069,854). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in as much as the rejection applies to the claims as amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, that “a nut body having a plurality of partially circumferential grooves each extending along a same radius, from a seat surface of the lock nut to a circumferential edge of a threaded hole ... wherein each of a plurality of projections is disposed between each of the plurality of grooves and is made from the same material as that

of a nut body and comprises ... a base portion extending radially along the groove from the outer circumferential radius to the threaded hole," which features are not otherwise described or suggested by Moroi or Heighberger.

That is, Moroi does not describe or suggest a groove or a plurality of grooves or projections disposed therebetween. Similarly, while Heighberger describes a groove, such groove is continuous and does not describe or suggest a plurality of grooves or projections disposed therebetween and/or that each projection includes a base portion extending radially along the groove from the outer circumferential radius to the threaded hole.

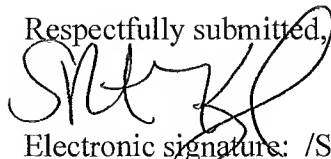
Hence, the combination of the references fails to fairly describe or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1, as arranged, as required to support a rejection under 35 USC § 103.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and those claims depending therefrom is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: July 7, 2011
Customer No.: 21874

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

This appendix includes Replacement Drawing Sheets 1 – 5.